

Application No. 10/707,099

Docket No.: 60680-1818

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently amended) A piston ring for use with an internal combustion engine and a piston having a groove, the internal combustion engine having combustion gasses and the groove having inner boundaries, said piston ring comprising:

a generally annular body having an upper surface, an outer peripheral face and at least one inner face in twisting contact with the inner boundaries of the groove; and

a lower surface of the piston ring includes a generally hook-shaped groove and the intersection of the generally hook-shaped groove and the outer peripheral face defines an edge, wherein said outer peripheral face is generally tapered and with said lower surface to defines said edge and wherein said outer peripheral face includes a projection extending therefrom, said projection reducing exposure of said outer peripheral face to the combustion gasses, and wherein said projection extends radially outwardly from said outer peripheral face along said upper surface.

2. (Original) A piston ring according to Claim 1, wherein the piston ring is disposed in a ring groove of a piston having a plurality of boundaries

3. (Original) A piston ring according to Claim 1, wherein said outer peripheral face contacts a wall of a surrounding cylinder at said edge.

4. (Original) A piston ring according to Claim 3, wherein a gap is defined between said outer peripheral face and the surrounding cylinder wall.

5. (Original) A piston ring according to Claim 4, wherein said projection generally minimizes said gap between said outer peripheral face and the wall of the cylinder.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Cancelled)

Application No. 10/707,099

Docket No.: 60680-1818

8. (Original) A piston ring according to Claim 1, wherein said projection is generally rectangular and includes an outer surface.

9. (Currently amended) A piston ring according to Claim 7-8, wherein said outer surface of said generally rectangular projection is substantially parallel to a wall of a surrounding cylinder.

10. (Currently amended) A piston ring according to Claim 7-8, wherein said rectangular projection defines a ledge extending radially from said outer peripheral face.

11. (Currently amended) A piston ring disposed in a ring groove of a piston and surrounded by a wall of a cylinder for use with a combustion chamber, the piston ring comprising:

a generally annular body having generally parallel upper and lower surfaces disposed between inner and outer peripheral faces, wherein at least one of said upper surface, said lower surface, and said inner peripheral face is in twisting contact with said ring groove;

said outer peripheral face being generally tapered to an edge such that said edge contacts the wall of the cylinder and defines a gap between said outer peripheral face and the wall; and

a projection disposed on said outer peripheral face to reduce the gap between said outer peripheral face and the wall, said projection extends radially outwardly along said upper surface, wherein said projection reduces exposure of said outer peripheral face to the combustion chamber and said lower surface further includes a generally hook-shaped groove and the intersection of said generally hook-shaped groove and said outer peripheral face defines said edge.

12. (Original) A piston ring according to Claim 11, wherein said projection is generally rectangular.

Application No. 10/707,099

Docket No.: 60680-1818

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Original) A piston ring according to Claim 11, wherein said projection includes an outer surface substantially parallel to the wall of the cylinder.

15. (Original) A piston ring according to Claim 11, wherein said projection defines a ledge extending radially from said outer peripheral face.

16. (Cancelled)